

United States Senate

August 8, 2019

Michael Sullivan
State Conservationist
USDA-NRCS
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3415
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Sullivan,

I write in wholehearted support of Arkansas' application to participate in the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program. As you know, feral swine are responsible for ongoing economic destruction for the agricultural industry of our state. This pilot program, USDA-NRCS-MULTI-FSCP-19-GEN0010253, has been made available for feral swine eradication activities for FY's 2019-2023, with a total of four project areas identified in Arkansas for potential funding. I understand those project areas have been selected through collaboration between NRCS, APHIS, and other conservation partners.

This pilot program is laudable and will help us better understand the conservation potential of different control management strategies. The program deals with questions like effective control methodology, the role of conservation partners, and how the eradication of this invasive species can be addressed from diverse perspectives. I appreciate the emphasis it places on working directly with landowners regarding decision-making and eradication efforts. Our conservation partners must make decisions under many constraints and much uncertainty, and the tools this project provides will be helpful to many landowners and farmers as they strive to be long-term stewards of the land.

I fully support the selection and approval of our Arkansas pilot projects. These efforts will be essential to protect the environment of our state, mitigate the very serious economic impact of this problem, and enhance the sustainability of our agricultural industry. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture
Evan Lee, Chief of Staff, Department of Agriculture Congressional Relations